

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEACHER'S PACKET

Kindergarten

## Sunday Morning

Study 33

*Saul Pursues David*

# Saul Pursues David

The Objective is the key concept for this weeks lesson. It should be the main focus of the study

These are the key verses that you will find helpful in teaching your study this week. The “Main passage” is the basis of the study, where the other verse support the objective of the lesson.

There is a memory verse for the students that relates to every study. If a student can memorize the verse for the following week you may give them a prize from the “reward box” found on your cart.

An introductory activity or question that will settle the class, draw their attention to the study and prepare their hearts for God’s Word.

**Objective** The goal of this lesson is to examine the danger of jealousy through the story of Saul and David.

## Key Verses

1 Samuel 18:1-16—Main Teaching Passage  
Brief summary of 1 Samuel 19-31

**Memory Verse** - 1 Samuel 16:7b (April Memory Verse)

“For *the LORD* does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.”

## Hook

Ask the class a question such as “what is your favorite color?”  
Tell them that you will be awarding points for their answers.  
Award these points unevenly, giving more to some than others.  
Ask the class if they think this is fair.

Next ask the students if they know what it is called when you are upset because someone got more than you. Tell them it is called “jealousy.” Ask them if they think jealousy is good or bad.

What does the Bible say? This is where we will read a passage or series of passages that teach on the subject of the day.

## BOOK

Over the past few weeks, we have seen how the Lord rejected Saul as king and instead determined that David would be the new king over Israel. In battling Goliath, David demonstrated why he was the Lord's choice. David's success in battle catapulted him to incredible fame. He became best friends with Saul's son Jonathan and the people of Israel loved him. However, David's popularity caused Saul to become jealous. One day, Saul heard the Israelites singing that David had slain ten thousands of men, while he had slain only thousands. Saul feared that he was going to lose his entire kingdom to David. Later on, David was playing music for Saul in his house while Saul was holding a spear. Saul tried to throw his spear at David and kill him, but David was able to escape. This happened twice. Saul then realized that the Lord was with David, and he was afraid to go after him again, so he made him an army captain, hoping he would die in battle. After this story, Saul would spend most of the rest of his life trying to hunt down and kill David. The rest of 1 Samuel records this long pursuit, which eventually ends in the death of Saul and all his sons. Saul had already lost his kingdom, but rather than repent and seek the Lord, he acted out on his jealousy and spent the rest of his life trying to stop God's will from happening. This will be our final week in 1 Samuel. Our next lesson will take us to the beginning of the reign of David.

The interpretation/exegesis of the passage. What does this passage mean? How does this passage apply to my life?

## LOOK

Saul at this point was in a difficult place. His sin had disqualified him from ruling over Israel, and he had failed to defeat the Philistines on his own. Instead, a young boy had stolen his glory and defeated the Philistine champion. Now this child was more popular than him. Women were singing David's praises in the streets. All of this reached a boiling point in today's story. Saul couldn't take it any more. He had to get rid of this kid David and take back his kingdom.

Jealousy is a powerful emotion that can lead to drastic action. For Saul, that action was trying to murder David. Jealousy takes place when we stop looking thankfully at all that God has given us and instead look longingly at what he has given someone else. Saul was not content that God had made him king, given him popularity, and allowed him to have military success. David had more popularity and success, and that just wouldn't do for Saul. His problem was not that God gave David everything and him nothing. Saul was upset that even though God had given him a lot, He had given David more. Notice how silly Saul's jealousy is here. The women sang that he had slain thousands. That is a great military accomplishment.

# LOOK (Continued)

But that was not enough. Saul wanted more.

See how twice this passage says “David behaved wisely” (vs. 5, 14). David was not gloating in his accomplishments or the fact that he would be the next king. He did not instigate Saul’s jealousy. It is important to remember to act this way when others are jealous of us. We should give them no reason to be jealous through bragging about what God has given us.

The bigger lesson today is the danger of being jealous ourselves. God has blessed us with so many blessings, especially here in the United States. Even more, if we are believers, we have more blessings than we could ever dream of. It is never helpful to compare what we have or how we have been blessed with other people. Instead, we ought to be content, knowing that God has given and will continue to provide all that we need. Rather than live in jealousy over what others have we ought to show thankfulness for what we have.

# TOOK

Have the class make a list of things God has blessed them with. Draw a big circle and write these things in the circle. Outside the circle, write “what others have.” Ask the class which one we should focus on, and cross out “what others have.”

**Pray:** Thank the Lord for all the things He has blessed us with. Ask Him to keep jealousy away from us all.

**Parent Question:** What things has God given you that you can be thankful for?

What is my response to this passage of Scripture? How should my life change according to what this passage teaches me? What are the practical things I can do throughout the week to make this true in my life?

# FURTHER STUDY

## Commentary on 1 Samuel 18:1-16 by David Guzik

### *Conflict Between Saul and David*

A. David, Jonathan, and Saul.

1. (1-4) The friendship between David and Jonathan.

Now when he had finished speaking to Saul, the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul. Saul took him that day, and would not let him go home to his father's house anymore. Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul. And Jonathan took off the robe that *was* on him and gave it to David, with his armor, even to his sword and his bow and his belt.

a. **When he had finished speaking to Saul:** When David finished the "after-killing-Goliath" conversation with Saul, his fame and renown in Israel was assured. He had performed a remarkably heroic deed, and was initially received by the leadership of Israel.

b. **The soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul:** We have met Jonathan, the son of Saul, before in 1 Samuel. He is the remarkably brave man of faith who initiated a one-man war against the Philistines ([1 Samuel 14](#)).

i. Jonathan was a lot like David. They were approximately the same age, though Jonathan was probably at least five years older. They both were bold, they both were men of great trust in God, and they both were men of action. Most of all, they both were men who had a real relationship with God.

ii. At the same time, Jonathan and David were different. Jonathan was the first-born son of a king ([1 Chronicles 9:39](#)), and David was the last-born son of a farmer. This made Jonathan more than a *prince*, he was *the crown prince*. Jonathan would, by *everyone's expectation*, be the next king of Israel.

c. What was it that **knit** their souls together? Notice that it happened *after David had finished speaking to Saul*. Jonathan heard David give an extended explanation of his heart, his faith in the living God, and Jonathan *knew* that he and David had the same heart. They could not be such close friends until Jonathan knew that about David.

i. Most people long for true, deep friendships, but give little heed to how they select their friends. Jonathan chose David for a friend because his words to Saul revealed David's heart - and it was heart full of love, and trust, and joy in God. Probably, at that moment he heard David speaking to his father King Saul, God spoke to Jonathan's heart and said, "*This one will be the next king of Israel.*"

ii. "No doubt but David spake much more than is here expressed, abasing himself, and exalting God, as sole Author of the victory over Goliath." (Trapp)

iii. The way most people think, Jonathan was the one who had the most to fear from David's success. Yet he loved David, because what they had in common - a real relationship with the LORD God - was bigger than any difference.

d. **Saul took him that day:** David would never again be "just" a shepherd. David still had a shepherd's heart, but never again would he *only* be a shepherd.

e. **Then Jonathan and David made a covenant:** Jonathan, by all human expectation, would be the next king. David was anointed by the LORD, through the prophet Samuel, to be the next king. Yet they **made a covenant** of friendship that would prove stronger than jealousy, stronger than envy, stronger than ambition.

i. Trapp on **made a covenant:** "Hebrew, Cut a covenant; for the covenanters first swear, and then cut a beast in twain, passing between the parts thereof, and wishing so to be cut in pieces if ever they falsified."

f. **Jonathan took off the robe that was on him and gave it to David, with his armor, even to his sword and his bow and his belt:** When Jonathan gave David **the robe** and **his armor**, he said, "You will be the next king of Israel. You should be dressed and armed as the crown prince. God's hand is on you, and these rightfully belong to you." Because Jonathan surrendered to God, he could see the hand of the LORD upon David. He knew David's destiny, and was perfectly willing to set aside his ambition to honor the LORD's choice.

i. "In our political world, where power plays such an important role, what would be thought of a prince who voluntarily renounced his throne in favour of a friend whose character and godly faith he admired?" (Baldwin)

g. For his part, David *received* **the robe** and Jonathan's **armor**. But he did not then say or think, "Good Jonathan. We all see who is boss around here. Now get out of my way because I'm going to replace your father as soon as I can." It would be some *20 years* until David took the throne of Israel and replaced Saul. If Jonathan was ready to recognize David as God's choice for the next king, David was willing to let *God* put him on the throne, and in *God's* timing. Both of these men were thoroughly submitted to the LORD!

i. David couldn't receive Saul's armor. It didn't fit him physically, but more importantly it didn't fit him spiritually. He and Saul lived for, and were trusting in, different things. But David could receive Jonathan's armor, not only because they were more similar in size. More importantly, they shared the same **soul**. They both loved God, and lived more for Him and for others more than themselves. David and Jonathan both knew that if the circumstances were reversed, David would do the exact same thing for Jonathan - because they had the same **soul**.

ii. If the issue of "who will be the next king?" were not settled in the hearts of Jonathan and David, they could never have had this kind of close love and friendship. They loved each other more than the throne of Israel, because they loved the LORD more than the throne of Israel.

h. The story of Jonathan and David shows many enduring principles about real love, love on a human level, and love between God and us.

i. Real love wants a commitment, and commitment will show itself in a covenant.

ii. Real love will not hide its covenant or commitment.

iii. Real love will give and receive gifts.

iv. Real love will clothe the poor with the robes of royalty.

v. Real love will give armor to fight with.

i. Some people read a homosexual relationship into the love between David and Jonathan. They suppose that two men can not love each other without it being what the Bible clearly says is immoral. But the relationship

between David and Jonathan shows that the Bible doesn't condemn real love between men, only a sexual relationship between men.

## 2. (5-9) Saul's jealousy of David.

So David went out wherever Saul sent him, *and* behaved wisely. And Saul set him over the men of war, and he was accepted in the sight of all the people and also in the sight of Saul's servants. Now it had happened as they were coming *home*, when David was returning from the slaughter of the Philistine, that the women had come out of all the cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet King Saul, with tambourines, with joy, and with musical instruments. So the women sang as they danced, and said: "Saul has slain his thousands, And David his ten thousands." Then Saul was very angry, and the saying displeased him; and he said, "They have ascribed to David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed *only* thousands. Now *what* more can he have but the kingdom?" So Saul eyed David from that day forward.

a. **David went out wherever Saul sent him, and behaved wisely:** David was fully submitted to Saul, and sought to serve Saul **wisely** in every way. David knew the way to be blessed was to work hard to be a blessing to his boss, King Saul. He would not undercut Saul's position or authority in any way.

i. Where did Saul send David? **Saul set him over the men of war.** This is a remarkable promotion - a man not older than his young twenties is now a "general" in the army of Israel.

b. **He was accepted in the sight of all the people and also in the sight of Saul's servants:** David quickly becomes popular, both among **the people** and among the leaders (**Saul's servants**). This was not because David was a yes-man-people-pleaser-sycophant kind of man. David did not *seek* this popularity at all, and certainly did not depend on *any* of those carnal tools. David became popular because he was a *man after God's own heart* and people could see the *love*, the *wisdom*, and the *peace* of God in him.

i. We might imagine that Saul's initial reaction was positive. "Good," he thought. "My new assistant is well received. Everyone will think I made a brilliant choice in bringing him on staff. This is working out well."

c. But David had just *begun* to be popular. When the people of Israel started singing, **Saul has slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands**, both David and Saul knew David was more popular than Saul was.

i. When **women** sing and dance in your honor, you are popular. When it happens in **all the cities of Israel**, you are popular. This song was the number one hit in Israel!

d. How did David react to this sudden popularity? He received it well, because [1 Samuel 18:14](#) says of this period in David's life, *And David behaved wisely in all his ways, and the LORD was with him*. In this environment of praise and popularity, David *behaved wisely in all his ways*.

i. When you are praised and popular, it isn't *wise* to let it go to your head. David was no doubt happy to hear these affirming words, but he didn't let it dominate his thinking or *change* his opinion of himself. He kept the heart and the mind of a shepherd, even in a season of great success.

ii. This wasn't easy. This was a test, one that the devil wanted to use to bring David down, and one that the LORD wanted to use to build David up. David never received this kind of affirmation when he was keeping the sheep. The sheep never danced and sang a song praising him! Now David faces the challenge of success. Many people who could handle adversity well enough fall under the challenge of success.

iii. But because David could be so content, and so happy before the LORD in keeping sheep with no praise or popularity, it put his heart in the right place to handle it when he received praise and popularity. Out in the shepherd's field, David had his heart set: "I'm doing this for the LORD. I love the LORD, and my reward is from

Him." Because his heart was right in the shepherd's field, David *behaved wisely in all his ways* when praise and popularity came.

iv. We also see this by David's reaction to the scorn and criticism from his brother Eliab ([1 Samuel 17:28-30](#)). When Eliab gave David the *opposite* of scorn and criticism, David didn't like it, but it didn't crush him. It didn't deter him. Most people are corrupted by praise and popularity to the same degree they are crushed by scorn and criticism. Because of what God built in him out in the shepherd's field, David could live his life more for the LORD than for people. It wasn't that David didn't care about people or what they thought, but he could put the opinion of man in the right perspective because he cared more about the opinion of God.

e. **Then Saul was very angry:** Knowing his character, we are not surprised by Saul's reaction. Saul did not have a right relationship, or a close relationship, with the LORD. All he had to affirm his heart was the praise of man, so when David was more praised than he, it really bothered Saul.

i. It is a bad sign in a leader when they resent or feel threatened by the success of one of their subordinates. It is a certain sign of weakness in that leader.

ii. **Now what more can he have but the kingdom?** This is a typical kind of over-reaction seen in the proud and insecure. Saul could have thought, "David has done well, and he has his glory today. I'll keep serving the LORD and I'll have this kind of praise and popularity another day." Instead, he over-reacts, and says "**Now what more can he have but the kingdom?**"

iii. However, there is another dynamic at work in Saul: a guilty conscience. He remembered the prophet Samuel told him, "*The LORD has rejected you from being king over Israel.*" Saul knew his sin had disqualified him from being king, and he was hanging on to the throne in the energy of his flesh. An honorable man would have stepped down, but if Saul were an honorable man, he wouldn't be in this mess! Instead, Saul constantly worried, "When will God cast me off the throne? Who will He raise up to replace me?" This insecurity, borne of guilt, also made Saul over-react to the praise and popularity given to David.

iv. And what an over-reaction! The crowds *did* praise Saul. They *did* sing, "**Saul has slain his thousands.**" What's wrong with that? Isn't it enough to slay **thousands**? For Saul, it wasn't enough as long as someone else was slaying **his ten thousands**.

v. In fact, Saul should have been *grateful*! Saul was treated *better* than he deserved, and he still resented it! He was angry "without cause: for as Chrysostom observeth, the women ascribed to Saul more than he deserved, - for he suffered the Philistine to vaunt himself forty days together, and yet cowardly sat still." (Trapp)

f. **So Saul eyed David from that day forward:** Now Saul's mind is filled with suspicion towards David. He will begin to hear most everything David says with suspicious ears. He will look at most all David's actions with suspicious eyes. His thoughts about David will be twisted by suspicion.

i. "He gave way to that devilish vice of envy, which was henceforth as a fire in his bosom, as a worm continually gnawing upon his entrails ... He looked upon him with an evil eye: prying into all his actions, and making the worst of everything." (Trapp)

ii. "Among the most terrible of human sins is jealousy - the parent of the darkest and blackest crimes that have disgraced the annals of our race." (Meyer)

iii. We can know that when a person in power has this mind and this heart against a person like David, it is going to be hard for David. But God will use it! God wasn't on vacation when all this was going on in Saul's mind. God had the power to either change Saul's mind, or take him out of the way. But God allowed it all to do a special work in David and to accomplish His eternal purpose. We want to say to David, "Look out! Danger

ahead! But trust in God, because He is still in control."

B. Saul's first attempt to kill David.

1. (10) The scene in Saul's royal court.

And it happened on the next day that the distressing spirit from God came upon Saul, and he prophesied inside the house. So David played *music* with his hand, as at other times; but *there was* a spear in Saul's hand.

a. **And it happened on the next day:** Saul had a suspicious heart towards David, and his suspicious heart lays the foundation for this attempt to kill David's.

b. **The distressing spirit from God came upon Saul:** This **distressing spirit** was first mentioned in [1 Samuel 16:14](#). It came upon Saul, permitted by the LORD, when the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul ([1 Samuel 16:14](#)). David was brought into Saul's royal court to play music, so that Saul would be ministered to and soothed when suffering from the **distressing spirit**.

c. **And he prophesied inside the house:** Why would a **distressing spirit** make Saul *prophesy*? Saul wasn't speaking from the LORD at all, and **prophesied** is a bad translation here. The Hebrew grammar used here can be used of idle ravings as well as of prophecy from the LORD. Saul was simply babbling like a man not in his right mind.

i. "He was *beside himself*; made *prayers, supplications*, and incoherent *imprecations*: 'God preserve my life,' 'Destroy my enemies,' or such like prayers, might frequently escape from him in his agitated state. The Arabic intimates that he was actually possessed by an evil spirit, and tht through it he uttered a sort of demoniacal predictions." (Clarke)

d. **So David played music with his hand:** The same hands that had killed Goliath, and carried the trophy of his severed head, were now sweetly playing music unto the LORD, ministering to a king troubled by a distressing spirit!

i. David obviously had skillful *hands*, both in war and in music ministry. But what a *humble heart* David has! Most men, after the fame that came to David, would consider this kind of service "beneath" them. David was a general in the army, famous in all Israel, and had women dancing and singing his praises. Yet he will perform this job of personally ministering to Saul in music.

e. **But there was a spear in Saul's hand:** David held a harp, and **played music with his hand**. But there was violence **in Saul's hand**. He held a spear. What a contrast between David and Saul!

2. (11) Saul throws a spear at David.

And Saul cast the spear, for he said, "I will pin David to the wall!" But David escaped his presence twice.

a. **And Saul cast the spear:** If a spear is in your hand, you'll probably use it! As Saul held that spear, the *distressing spirit* moved upon him, and instead of receiving ministry from David's music, the *distressing spirit* prompted Saul to strike out at David.

i. We must say that the *distressing spirit* did not "make" Saul do this. But the spirit *prompted* it. Saul was able to choose, "Will I do this or not?" and he chose to **cast the spear**.

ii. This same music ministry once soothed Saul, and made him *refreshed and well*, giving him relief from the *distressing spirit* ([1 Samuel 16:23](#)). Now, it is of no effect at all, and Saul even responds to David's music minis-

try with a murder attempt! What has changed? Was it David's music, or David's heart? No, it was Saul. Saul refused to receive from David's ministry, and that refusal set the stage for this kind of violence.

b. **For he said, "I will pin David to the wall with it."** This wasn't an accident. As we will see, there's little doubt that Saul wanted it to seem like an accident. Though he wouldn't admit it, his heart was set on finishing off David. He didn't want to just frighten David, or wound David. When you want to **pin David to the wall**, you want the spear to deliver a fatal blow, completely through the body.

c. **But David escaped his presence:** Saul threw the spear, and it missed David. Perhaps Saul's aim was bad, affected by his poor mental and emotional state. Perhaps David saw the spear and ducked. Perhaps God simply supernaturally guided the spear to miss. However it happened, the spear missed and lay on the floor. And what did David do? **David escaped his presence.**

i. Of most of us, it would be written, "And so-and-so picked the spear up off the floor, went over to Saul, and said, 'If Goliath couldn't scare me, you sure can't. If Goliath couldn't kill me, you sure can't.' And with one thrust of the spear, so-and-so pinned Saul to the wall."

ii. But David didn't pick up the spear. He didn't throw it back. He simply **escaped his presence**. No one could blame David if he struck back; it could easily be called self-defense. But David had a different heart. It wasn't a matter of what he could get away with, but it was a matter of what God's heart wanted. David was determined to leave the situation in God's hands, and not *take* the throne himself. *God* would have to take care of Saul, because David wouldn't do it!

iii. Why? Was it because David lacked courage? No, he demonstrated his courage in the battle against Goliath. You can bet that if almost anyone else had thrown a spear at David, he would have picked it up and killed the man who tried to kill him. But David knew the principle of [Romans 13:1](#) before it was ever written: *Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.* David said, "LORD, you put Saul on the throne. And I know I'm supposed to be the next king, because You have given me Your promise and Your anointing. But getting Saul out of the way is Your business. I won't touch it, because he is an authority appointed by You. You started his reign, so *You* have to end it."

iv. Let Saul act in the flesh. Let Saul take matters into his own hands. Let Saul throw spears. David will have none of it. David will trust the LORD. In doing so, David will not only dodge the spear that could end his life. David will also dodge the spear that could ruin his *soul*. When one is pinned to the wall with a physical spear, blood pours out and you die. When one is pinned to the wall with an intangible spear, bitterness pours out and you die. *David dodged both kinds of spears.*

v. Gene Edwards, in his wonderful book *Tale of Three Kings*, says that David understood something that few of even the wisest men in David's day understood, and even fewer today. David understood that "God did not have, but wanted very much to have, men who would live in pain. God wanted a broken vessel."

d. **But David escaped his presence twice:** Perhaps the most remarkable word in this chapter is **twice**. This means that *Saul threw the spear twice*. This means that *Saul missed twice*. This means that *after the first miss, David came back and played again!*

i. This is where many of us will draw the line. "Look, I'll sit with the bulls-eye on my chest once, and I'll dodge the spear. I'll even leave the spear on floor and resist the temptation to throw it back. But one spear whizzing by my head is enough. One miss and I've paid my dues. Once is submission to the LORD. Twice is stupidity!"

ii. We might even say that David's submission didn't even begin until he sat back down to play for Saul *again* after the first attempt on his life. Now he knew the danger, now he knew Saul's heart, and *now* he had to trust

God.

iii. What was at stake? What would have happened if David had struck back after resisting that temptation the first time? We can suppose that David still would have become king. We can suppose that we still would be admiring David's heart in not throwing the spear back the first time, and we would have understood how he struck back the second time. But if David would have done this, he would have *surrendered his destiny to be the greatest king of Israel*. He still would be a king, but not *the king* the LORD destined him to be.

iv. "In doing this small feat of returning thrown spears, you will prove many things. You are courageous. You stand for the right. You boldly stand against the wrong. You are tough and can't be pushed around. You will not stand for injustice or unfair treatment. You are the defender of the faith, the keeper of the flame, detector of all heresy. You will not be wronged. All of these attributes then combine to prove that you are also obviously a candidate for kingship. Yes, perhaps you are the Lord's anointed. *After the order of King Saul.*" (Gene Edwards, *Tale of Three Kings*)

3. (12-16) David is transferred from the palace to the army.

Now Saul was afraid of David, because the LORD was with him, but had departed from Saul. Therefore Saul removed him from his presence, and made him his captain over a thousand; and he went out and came in before the people. And David behaved wisely in all his ways, and the LORD *was* with him. Therefore, when Saul saw that he behaved very wisely, he was afraid of him. But all Israel and Judah loved David, because he went out and came in before them.

a. **Now Saul was afraid of David, because the LORD was with him:** Saul had the spear, but because David would not pick the spear up off the floor, David had the LORD. *Saul knew he was outmatched*. All the spears in the world couldn't defeat David, **because the LORD was with him**. Somehow, Saul knew all this, and it made Saul **afraid** of David.

i. By all outward appearance, Saul is in control. Saul has the throne. Saul has the army. Saul has the spears. Yet Saul was **afraid of David because the LORD was with him**.

b. But it wasn't only that **the LORD was with** David. It was also that the LORD **had departed from Saul**. This made Saul uncomfortable with David, and made it hard for Saul to have David around (**Therefore Saul removed him from his presence**).

c. In all this, Saul **made him his captain**. Here is your promotion, David! But Saul's desire was not to bless David, but to set him up for harm. Saul's jealousy has made him manipulative, working a hidden, secret agenda on David.

i. "This was under pretence of doing him honour, when it was in effect only to rid himself of the object of his envy." (Clarke)

ii. "This seeming preferment was indeed a persecution; for hereby David, being valorous and venturous, was exposed to no small danger in fighting against the enemies. Uriah lost his life by such means." (Trapp)

d. **David behaved wisely in all his ways, and the LORD was with him:** It isn't easy to behave wisely when spears are being thrown at you. It isn't easy to behave wisely when you are put out of the palace. It isn't easy to behave wisely when you have powerful and determined enemies. But even in the midst of all those terrible circumstances, you can behave wisely in all your ways as **the LORD is with** you.

i. Again, it says Saul was **afraid of him**. Why wasn't Saul happy that David **behaved very wisely**? Because Saul's wisdom and David's wisdom were very different. Saul was wise when it came to spears. David was wise

when it came to trusting God. David's wisdom seemed like foolishness to Saul, but it was real wisdom from God and something in Saul knew it and was **afraid** of it.

e. **But all Israel and Judah loved David:** Because God was with David, he became even more popular. David was tempted to use this popularity as a spear against Saul, but because he **behaved wisely in all his ways**, he refused.

i. "If only jealous people would ponder such a story as this, surely they would see the uselessness of their malignant attempts to injure those who may seem destined to take their place. It is not thus that the peril can be met." (Meyer)

f. **Because he went out and came in** is a Hebrew figure of speech meaning, "David conducted successful military operations." God's hand of success was with David, even though Saul was against him. Saul might attack and pain David in any number of ways, but God would not allow Saul to have the victory.

i. *David was never a victim.* He *looked* like a victim, because he was attacked. When there are spears stuck in the wall behind you, and laying about on the floor, you sure look like a victim! But David **behaved wisely in all his ways**, so he did not give into the victim's state of mind, thinking that *his fate was in the hands of the one attacking him*. David knew his fate was in God's hands, and could have peace in that.